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16 APR 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science  
and Technology

SUBJECT: IRAG Meeting on CIRL

REFERENCE: Memo for IRAG Members from Chairman,  
IRAG, dated 10 April 1968

25X1A 1. The Current Intelligence Reporting List (CIRL) is scheduled for discussion at the IRAG meeting on Friday, 19 April (see reference memorandum with its attached information prepared by the Information Requirements Staff on the purpose and use of the publication). Because OSI has several reservations about the CIRL as presently conceived, we have attempted below to present our views to you and [ ] prior to the meeting.

2. As you probably know, the CIRL is a "collection of questions of current interest . . . . for which answers are requested if a means already exists for acquiring them. Thus, the CIRL is intended to guide field reporting; it is not intended to cause the collector either to mount new collection programs or to take actions that are not in conformance with the formal guidance and directives issued by his own management." Despite these words of caution, it is almost unbelievable that anyone would regard the CIRL as anything but a collection guide. As such, it tends to run counter to general CIA policy on such guides. Since in OSI's experience collection guides have not been productive, our view of the value of the CIRL is admittedly biased.

3. During the past few years, OSI has participated extensively in the CIRL program. A review of the most recent editions of the CIRL covering all geographic areas shows that requirements on about 60 substantive topics of interest to OSI in about 40 countries had been prepared. The quality and quantity of these requirements vary extensively. At one extreme we have the "tell all you know type question" ("Information is requested on the health of key personalities in Latin America"). At the other extreme, we have numerous

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specific questions on a given subject (a nine page treatise, including both background and requirements, on the French nuclear weapons program). Many Office contributions contain no background statements while others, as in the case of the contribution concerning the French AE program, are most comprehensive. It should also be noted that while some of the OSI-related requirements in the CIRL were inserted initially by IRS/HR/Ops., based on requirements or guidance material prepared for specific collectors, the Divisions are given the opportunity every 4 months to object to or confirm their desires for continuing usage of such materials. In general, while our information needs reflected in the CIRL do not always define precisely an information gap, our most significant requirements, across-the-board, are stated in the appropriate CIRL.

4. Although OSI has participated extensively in the CIRL, we are unable to determine precisely the resulting benefits to OSI. The Divisions are unable to specify with certainty any information received as a result of their requirements in the CIRL. A few analysts seem to think that some reporting has been a result of the publication. LSD believes that the CIRL possibly is responsible for having stimulated increased reporting (especially from State) on VIP health. In addition to a doubling of the "take" in recent months, the reporting is no longer confined to foreign heads of state, but also includes information on people with high influence in their governments. (At the same time, however, LSD analysts have been in contact with State people, and the increased reporting could have resulted from this increase in personal contact.) DSD (Aircraft and Cruise Missiles Branch analysts) believes that a few ground-level photographs on pertinent aircraft might have resulted from AT&S expression of need in the CIRL. Also, we do know that the CIRL is used as a [redacted] published in [redacted]. Inasmuch as the collector who uses the CIRL does not reference his reporting to it and we have specific requirements outstanding on many of the OSI-related subjects covered in the CIRL, a more precise judgment as to its value to OSI is difficult to make.

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5. Concerning the potential value of the CIRL, we have the general impression that many analysts look upon the publication as an up-to-date guidance manual and mechanism for informing possible collectors of their needs on a regular basis. They believe that, in the event a knowledgeable source comes along, a collector might have use for the CIRL if he has no more specific guidance from his headquarters nor the time to query Washington. It is possible that the CIRL has influenced the efforts of some collectors in the past and may do so in the future.

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the USSR and Communist China adequate requirements exist and we will continue to prepare specific requirements, participate in DD/P - OSI meetings, brief chiefs of stations and case officers, prepare specially-tailored guidance as requested by the covert collectors, and generally encourage our analysts to support the DD/P.



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Acting Director of  
Scientific Intelligence

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